



# PRESS RELEASE

## REP. DAN RAYFIELD

### STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 16

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### **Bill Seeks Transparency on Legislator Conflicts of Interest**

SALEM – A bill was filed today in the Oregon House to increase transparency for legislators who may have financial conflicts of interest. House Bill 3457, chief sponsored by Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis), aims to close a current loophole that allows legislators to avoid disclosing business income they receive from individuals or entities that have an interest in matters coming before the legislature.

“The public deserves to know what potential conflicts of interest legislators may have. More disclosure will dramatically increase transparency on what may influence decisions in the Capitol, which is a good thing,” Rayfield said.

Current law requires legislators to disclose all sources of income greater than \$1,000 from individuals or entities with a legislative interest. However, it does not require the disclosure of sources of income paid to a business owned and operated by a legislator from an individual or entity with a legislative interest. HB 3457 would fix this loophole by requiring legislators who own or operate a business to disclose these sources of income if it totals 10 percent or more of their company’s gross income.

“This is a fix that will increase transparency and hopefully avoid disclosure and conflict of interest issues in the future,” said Rayfield.

This bill is intended to complement to House Bill 2577 that was introduced by Rayfield earlier this year to require lobbyists to report on what bills they are seeking to influence. Both bills seek more transparency in government and by giving the public additional information about what political interests are influencing legislation.

“It would be hypocritical for the legislature to only push increased transparency for others. The legislature should be held to the same standards,” Rayfield said.

House Bill 2577 passed the house with a bipartisan vote of 52-3 is currently being considered in the Senate Committee on Rules.

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